THE
Dan Smoot Report

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DAN SMOOT

THE SINISTER PEACE CORPS

In June, 1967, Peace Corps officials in Washington learned that a petition denouncing U. S. Policy in Vietnam had been signed by 92 of the 442 Peace Corpsmen in Chile — and that similar petitions were being circulated among corpsmen in Ecuador and Venezuela. None of the Peace Corpsmen was fired, or otherwise disciplined, however. Jack Vaughn (then Peace Corps Director) merely sent out a circular letter asking Peace Corpsmen "to drop out of political activities in which they are identified as corpsmen, or else resign from the service."(1)

In March, 1970, U. S. Representative H. R. Gross (Iowa Republican) referred to the Peace Corps as "an international boondoggle . . . devised for the propagandizing of one-worldism at home and abroad," and called the Corps a "fuzzy-headed hoax that has made far more enemies than friends." Congressman Gross wrote:

"Nigeria, loudly proclaimed as a Peace Corps 'showplace,' is reportedly so disenchanted that it is ready to throw out all the so-called volunteers. Within the last six months the Peace Corps has been summarily booted out of Libya, Somalia and Tanzania.

"In Ethiopia and the Dominican Republic, Peace Corps personnel have reportedly meddled in the internal affairs of those nations. In Micronesia they reportedly advised that country's legislators to oppose establishment of U. S. military bases. Elsewhere, they demonstrated against the policies of this nation during the Vice President's recent overseas tour."(2)

Some time ago, a subscriber forwarded to me a letter she had received from a young relative — Dean Conrad — then serving in the Peace Corps at Belem Para, Brazil. Dean Conrad is white, reared in Bismarck, North Dakota. Here is the opening paragraph of his letter, written April 24, 1968:

"Well, [Martin Luther] King has been shot. Imagine the stupidity of a regime which did not give that man maximum protection. Now I hope the Negroes burn and destroy like mad — and

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in the white suburbs. After all, white institutions created the ghetto, white institutions maintain it, and white society condones it. Only if the Negroes revolt in the middle of smug, materialist, moderate, white communities will they be able to move these whites from their smugness, materialism, etc., etc."

How did such people get into the Peace Corps to work for "peace" and represent the United States in foreign lands?

In 1965, Peace Corps officials launched an all-out campaign to recruit members of Students for a Democratic Society (SDS), an organization dedicated to the establishment of world communism, the violent overthrow of the U. S. government, and the destruction of everything decent in the United States. Peace Corps Deputy Director Warren L. Wiggins held meetings with SDS officials, seeking their advice on ways to make the Peace Corps more "attractive and exciting" to "student activists."[3] Mr. Wiggins said:

"We want highly motivated people, people who would like to see the world a little different than it is now."[3]

Hubert Humphrey, then Vice President, approved Peace Corps recruitment of "student activists." Humphrey said it was "established beyond doubt that many of the demonstrations against U. S. policy in Vietnam are organized with the assistance of Communists." But, he claimed, many of the demonstrators "are sincere, idealistic youths whose idealism could be channeled into creative work in the valleys of the Indus and the high lands of the Andes."[3]

The harm that Peace Corpsmen do to the United States while they are overseas is infinitely less than the harm some of them do after they come back.

By 1968, the Peace Corps had some 15,000 volunteers serving overseas; but there were around 24,000 *returnees* (volunteers who had been brought back to the United States and discharged after their tours of duty).[4]

About 60% of the returnees go into education, either as teachers or as college students.[4] This was deliberately planned. As early as 1963, Sargent Shriver, with the help of the National Education Association, was urging college administrators and school officials to make it easy for Peace Corps returnees to enter the academic field.[5]

Since the first crop of Peace Corps returnees entered the colleges of America, new-left-communist revolutionary violence has politicized many major American universities — transforming them from institutions of higher learning into training grounds and launching sites for communist-directed guerrilla warfare against the United States.

About 18% of all Peace Corps returnees are hired by federal, state, or local governments.[4] Most of these are involved, in one way or another, with the poverty war. Their work consists largely of "promoting social action in the ghettoes" — that is, agitating unrest among Negroes in big cities, organizing them to demonstrate for more welfare, more tax-financed housing, more special privileges. The demonstrations often become violent riots.

In every major race riot since Watts in 1965, poverty warriors on federal payrolls have been involved as leaders and agitators. How many were Peace Corps returnees we do not know, but we do know that Peace Corps returnees practically run the poverty war. They dominate the huge poverty war headquarters bureaucracy in Washington, holding policy-making and policy-implementing jobs from the lowest to the highest levels; and they occupy key positions in poverty war operations in most major cities throughout the nation.[4]

The effectiveness of Peace Corps returnees' work for the new-left-communist revolution has not been left to chance or to the individual efforts of returnees. In 1966, The Committee of Returned Volunteers (CRV) was organized (headquarters mailing address: Box 380, Cooper Station, New York City 10003). By 1967, CRV was claiming "a membership of several thousand returned volunteers and local chapters in a number of areas" throughout the United States.[6]

The September, 1967, issue of *Ramparts* (por-

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nographic new-left magazine) published The Committee of Returned Volunteers' "Position Paper on Vietnam," which, according to the CRV, had been "endorsed by more than 2000 returned volunteers."

The Peace Corps returnees' position on Vietnam is identical with the communist position.[6]

The Peace Corps returnees' committee asserts that the National Liberation Front (communist political arm of the Viet Cong in South Vietnam) is "authentically representative of a broad segment of South Vietnamese society." It condemns the legitimate South Vietnamese government as a "small power elite of military leaders and landlords who refuse to allow other segments of Vietnamese society to participate in political decision-making and in the benefits of economic growth."[6]

Using the same phrases and cliches used by communist officials of the North Vietnamese government, the Peace Corps returnees' committee alleges that the United States "masks the truth" in claiming to want a negotiated settlement of the Vietnam war, saying that the U. S. goal is "military victory" and that its "professed interest in peace talks is merely perfunctory."[6] The communists, according to the Peace Corps returnees' committee, want nothing but a just peace in Vietnam.

The Peace Corps returnees demand immediate withdrawal of U. S. troops from Vietnam. This, they acknowedge, "may well mean that the Viet Cong will become the dominant element in Vietnamese political life"; but, they say, communist domination will be all right because it will represent the choice of the Vietnamese people.[6]

One of several reasons why decent, compassionate American anti-communists do not want us to abandon South Vietnam, before achieving a military victory over the communists, is the certainty that communists will murder millions of Vietnamese civilians and soldiers who have aligned themselves with us to resist communist conquest. Concerning this awful prospect, the committee of Peace Corps returnees says:

"Should violence occur in Vietnam after our withdrawal, let us not be hypocritical about it: it is unimaginable that it could equal the violence we now bring to that nation."[6]

The Peace Corps returnees deny that an international communist conspiracy exists. According to them, conflict throughout the world is primarily between the rich and the poor, with communists on the side of the poor masses struggling for freedom and national self-determination; with the United States using its resources to keep rich oppressors in power and to share in the exploitation of the poor.[6]

The Peace Corps returnees think it "unjust" and "intolerable" that the people of the United States own a large share of all wealth in the world. They say:

"The United States must promote the equitable redistribution and development of the resources of this nation and the world."[6]

And:

"The United States must work to make its resources available to the world community. This should be done primarily through international agencies rather than through unilateral channels."[6]

On the other hand, the Peace Corps returnees demand immediate cessation of all U. S. aid to the present government of South Vietnam and to all other anti-communist governments.[6]

The Peace Corps returnees demand that the Peace Corps itself be converted into an international agency beyond American control[6] (but with American taxpayers still paying the bills, of course). The March, 1966, issue of *Peace Corps Volunteer* (official publication of the Peace Corps) featured an article by one returnee suggesting that the Corps be internationalized and moved to Geneva, with Saul Alinsky as director. Alinsky is a self-styled professional radical who makes a business of inciting racial hatreds and mob violence, and who teaches class warfare in undiluted Marxian language.

In 1968, the Committee of Returned Volunteers presented a petition to the Republican and Democrat National Conventions. The petition outlined 15 "principles" which the returnees

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asked both parties to write into their platforms and to support in their selections of candidates. Here is a sampling of the Peace Corps returnees' "principles":

"The United States must immediately begin the withdrawal of its troops from South Vietnam and Thailand; . . . must recognize that the National Liberation Front will have a major role in any negotiations and peace settlement; . . . must be prepared to pay war reparations to the people of Vietnam for the damage its arms have wrought.

"Pardon or amnesty must be granted to all persons who are subject to criminal prosecution for their conscientious resistance to the war, including Dr. Benjamin Spock, William Sloane Coffin, Michael Ferber and Mitchell Goodman, and returned volunteers Malcolm Dundas, Bruce Murray, and Fred Lonidier. . . .

"A negative income tax or a guaranteed annual income must replace . . . welfare. . . .

"The United States must restore diplomatic relations with Cuba and recognize the People's Republic of China. . . . "(6)

CRV boasts that Peace Corps returnees actively worked with the National Mobilization Committee to End the War (a communist-dominated group) to lead demonstrations in the streets of Chicago during the 1968 Democrat National Convention.(6)

One day during the May, 1970, "peace" demonstrations in Washington, Curtis Dall saw "the black flag of anarchy unfurled" from "about the third floor of the Peace Corps Building . . . to the cheers of several hundred 'students' swirling below in the street." Curtis Dall (former son-in-law of President Franklin D. Roosevelt) is chairman of the board of Liberty Lobby.

As mentioned last week, the Senate has already authorized $90 million for the Peace Corps in 1971; and the House has authorized $98.8 million. Agreement on a conference bill to spend multiplied millions of our tax dollars on the Peace Corps for another year seems inevitable.

Nonetheless, constitutional conservatives should make the Peace Corps a political issue this year. Every candidate for the federal Congress should be required to commit himself *for* or *against* the Peace Corps, which is providing tax money and leadership for the new-left-communist attack on our society.

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FOOTNOTES

(1) *Arizona Republic*, editorial, June 17, 1967
(2) Congressman Gross's Legislative Report No. 1057, March 25, 1970
(3) Fulton Lewis, Jr., column, Oct. 28, 1965; John Chamberlain column, Nov. 7, 1965
(4) Carl T. Rowan column, Aug. 18, 1968
(5) "When Peace Corps Teachers Return," by R. Sargent Shriver, *NEA Journal*, March, 1963
(6) "Committee of Returned Volunteers Position Paper On Vietnam," *Ramparts*, Sept., 1967; Committee of Returned Volunteers Petition To The Republican and Democratic Conventions; Committee of Returned Volunteers Statement Of Purpose

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